

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, and 9 have been canceled, and claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 have been amended, and further claims 13-16 have been added. Reconsideration of this patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 11 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Such rewriting has been done in accord with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 11 are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Schönhöffer (DE 19622827). Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been canceled. Claims 8 and 12 were amended to be directly dependent upon a presumably allowable base claim. Thus, for at least this reason, each of claims 8 and 12 are believed to be in allowable form.

Newly Added Claims 13-16

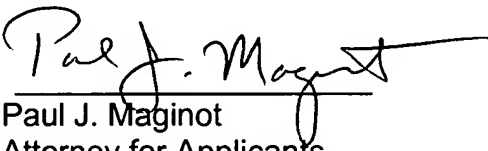
Newly added claims 13-16 recite novel and nonobvious limitations. Thus, each of claims 13-16 is allowable over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul J. Maginot", written over a horizontal line.

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